



News Release

Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests &
Thunder Basin National Grassland
<http://fs.usda.gov/mbr>

Contact: Larry Sandoval, (307) 745-2420 or Steve Best, (307) 326-2500

Cedar Pass Road to Close For Landslide Repair Work

(SARATOGA, WY - August 30, 2011) – Due to the scheduled repair from a 2010 landslide, part of the Cedar Pass Road (Forest Road 261) is closed effective immediately to allow safe transport of oversized trucks hauling construction materials. As a result of this closure, a few associated secondary roads will not be accessible during this time.

The closure will be a “rolling” closure marked by road closed signs and barricades. As work is completed, these barriers will be moved and completed sections of the road reopened to motorized traffic. Operations may be completed by mid October, weather permitting.

The 261 road is used to access portions of the northwest corner of the Snowy Range in the Medicine Bow National Forest.

Acquisition of funds, unusually high snowpack this past winter and subsequent late access to forest lands all contributed to the delayed start of this project.

“The timing of this project is difficult and we understand this closure will impact hunters this season; however, public safety is our foremost consideration,” said Steve Best, Brush Creek/Hayden District Ranger.

“We have already experienced one serious vehicle accident and several near misses.”

The segment between County Road 101 and Forest Road 115 (Moerke Lake) is anticipated to be open by September 2. Additionally, the segment between Forest Road 100 and Forest Road 216 will remain open.

While visitors may not be able to drive the full length of Forest Road 261, they should know that this part of the National Forest will continue to be accessible by foot and horse (including crossing the road) and that many areas around Forest Road 261 remain accessible by motor vehicles through alternate routes. Many access roads south of Forest Road 261 remain open and can be accessed via Forest Road 100.

Repairing damaged roads to keep them open and safe is an emphasis for the Medicine Bow National Forest. Road projects are a short-term inconvenience for long-term public safety.

For further information, call 307-326-2500 or stop by the BCH Ranger District office at 5556 South Highway 130 in Saratoga between 7:30 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Road closures and project activities may also be found at <http://fs.usda.gov/mbr>.

###